

# WESTWORD



Volume 25, Number 1

February, 2010

## Facing Flu

By Ralph Conner

When Thomas Mitchell returned home from World War One military service to his home at 202 S. 18th, he found his family in mourning. Sisters, Mrs. Edna Patton and Mrs. Ada Haworth, had died from flu a week earlier. Brother Floyd Mitchell died the day Thomas returned. Floyd's two-year-old daughter died hours before her father.

That's an example of the ravages the "Spanish" flu visited on the Pikes Peak region ninety years ago and a clue why authorities are concerned now about a possible N1H1 ("Swine") flu expansion in degree and intensity.

Estimates are that 500,000 U.S. citizens died in the flu pandemic of 1918-1919... more than we suffered in military fatalities in World War One.

Local histories don't tell about the local infestation. The best information is from items published in Colorado Springs and Colorado City newspapers. In 1993, when WestWord carried "Westside Memories" as a regular feature, the "75 years ago" column reported statistics and anecdotes about the 1918 epidemic. Here is some information reported then.

Newspapers reported 615 flu cases and 21 deaths in September, 1918. October tallied 100 deaths locally. Cripple Creek had 100 flu cases and three doctors to treat them. Manitou Springs was free of flu that month, causing some tourists to remain there to avoid illness at home. November had 1336 new cases and 54 deaths.

A report following the worst months said the region's totals by January, 1919, were 3,278 flu cases, and 95 deaths. (The census bureau estimated Colorado Springs' population then at just under

33,000. If you added Colorado City, Ivywild, Nob Hill and Roswell, the area population was around 50,000.)

Among the prominent who died in this period were J. B. Wheeler, 77, a patron of Manitou, of area banks and the Manitou Mineral Water Company. In St. Louis, John T. Milliken died. He built the Golden Cycle Mill in Colorado City in 1906, and owned the

*Continued page 4*

### Comments from Joanne Karlson.

While reading the September 2009 issue of "The Pueblo Lore" (published monthly by the Pueblo Country Historical Society), I was interested to read their documented research suggesting that the strain of this flu started in Haskell County, KS in spring of 1918. The flu first moved eastward probably because thousands of soldiers from nearby Camp Funston were sent to the eastern U.S. before shipping to Europe. For more information, issues of this publication are available in the Research Library at our History Center.

**Old Colorado City Historical Society**

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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE  
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

**MISSION**

Revised April 2004

*The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	Corporate	\$250

*Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Vice President	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Secretary	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Treasurer	Johnie Jackson	550-0999
	Art Crawford	578-1158
	Beverley Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Paul Shepard	633-8090
	Sharon Swint	630-8384

**MEETINGS**

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July, and August. The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

## WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Carol Mosier Bach  
 Bernideen Canfield  
 Frances S. Cripe  
 Catherine Dymkoski  
 Nancy Jo Falbe  
 Daniel Gauron  
 Dianne Gidley  
 Kenneth L. Goldsberry  
 Elizabeth Grout  
 Melanie Gouldman  
 Carla Hale  
 Norma & Ken Hoehn  
 Patricia S. Jacobs  
 Robin Johnston  
 Don Kallaus  
 Sharon Konen  
 George Lindley  
 Wayne & Christina Login  
 James Marvin  
 Robert G. Nicklaus  
 Frank & Dorothy Otoupalik  
 Pine Creek Art Gallery  
 Eunice Quinn  
 Ralph Roscoe  
 Verda L. Spitz  
 Tom & Lyn Strand  
 Barbara Sweat  
 Keith & Megan Thompson  
 Jerry Travers  
 Frank Tucker  
 Ute Pass Historical Society  
 Marion & John Vance  
 Westside Pioneer  
 Holly Wepking  
 Jan Zellmer

# Volunteer Spotlight – meet Betsy Evans

by Barbara Barbaro

When asked what her chosen profession would have been had she lived back in the times of Colorado City, it was no surprise when Betsy answered, “a school teacher or librarian”. Betsy has a host of years under her belt teaching French and Spanish when she and her husband lived in Florida. She quit teaching when she and her husband moved to Colorado in 1978. Almost immediately she became the branch supervisor of the Colorado City Library, a position she held for 18 years.

Encouraged by management within the library system to become involved in the local community, she joined the Society around 1991, several years before it purchased and renovated the Baptist Church where the History Center is now located. Within days of retiring from her position with the library in early 1997, Paul Idelman, president of the Society at the time, asked if she would assist the woman who was then head of the newly established bookstore, Thelma Williams. Not long after Betsy said “yes”

and started helping out, Ms. Williams had to quit. Betsy then became the person in charge. For the past twelve years her job within the bookstore parameters has included everything from ordering books, to maintaining sales and inventory records, reconciling the bank statements, completing quarterly sales tax returns, and handling all banking activities associated with the bookstore...quite a job for a volunteer who never had a co-manager to assist her.

Recently, Betsy took some much-needed time off from running the bookstore to recuperate from an illness. In an effort to take some of the daily strain off of Betsy's shoulders when she returned, responsibilities were shifted around, with Susie Schorsch now managing the bookstore. Interfacing with numerous publishers to find those special types of books applicable to the Center's specific needs is something that comes easy for Betsy. Now, she will keep up the bookstore stock and inventory, including ordering new books and re-ordering ones already on the bookstore shelves.

Keeping busy isn't a problem to Betsy. She has two sons and two daughters, along with four grandsons to keep her in shape. She seems to have a never ending supply of energy. One son lives in Superior, Colorado, another in Pensacola, Florida. One of her daughters lives in Indiana, and her daughter Carolyn, a familiar face at the Society's monthly programs and other events, lives with her in Colorado Springs, where they've lived for the past twenty years.

There's no doubt that Betsy's heart is in helping ensure that the Historical Society and the History Center continue to thrive. Her hope is that each successive board of directors pays attention to the physical attributes of our building, keeping it clean and attractive so that visitors from all over will want to stop in, take a look around, and maybe even get involved themselves, good advice for all of us to heed.

Now that Betsy has less bookstore responsibilities she's open to getting involved in other activities within the History Center. With all of her talents, experience, and sincere dedication, there's certainly no way the Society can lose! Betsy truly shines in a spotlight all her own.



**Flu** continued from page 1

Pikeview coal properties until he sold out to A. E. Carlton interests in 1915.

Family disruptions sometimes reflected nobility and sacrifice. The Secretary of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Henderson, although healthy, decided to join his wife and three children who were in quarantine at the family home, 713 West Cucharas. A week later he was dead. Mrs. Pearl Brennicke, a Westside teacher, adopted the infant son of C. L. Boland when his mother died.

News of the Armistice reached here at 12:45 am, Monday, November 11th. As a climax to general celebration, Colorado City turned out for a parade.

Two days after the Armistice, 48 new flu cases were reported and five deaths.

Residents of the YWCA were shifted to a dormitory in the Acacia Hotel so influenza patients not quarantined at home could be isolated at the YWCA State girls' and boys' schools and reformatory refused to accept new inmates until the epidemic abated. Merchants were ordered not to have sales since that brought people together. Fifteen men getting radio training at Colorado College were quarantined.

Schools, churches and theaters closed. (Later, as restrictions eased, theaters reopened but had to leave alternate rows of seats vacant.) Funerals and weddings were outlawed, except for graveside services with only the family present. Soda fountains had to serve drinks in paper cups or glasses washed in boiling water. Burning of leaves was forbidden. Streetcar windows were left open to circulate the air. Citizens were warned about using public telephones.

Items about enforcement appeared. Mrs. Black and Mrs. Fisher "faced charges" because they gave a party at 3132 West Pikes Peak. Deputy Sheriff J. W. Henderson took two women to the State Hospital in Pueblo, where an officer tried to arrest him because he wasn't wearing a gauze mask.

Many poignant stories were never recorded, but would no doubt reinforce warnings about what might come in a new flu pandemic.

## NEWS FLASH! A COMING EVENT

... from Art Crawford

- The "as yet un-named symposium" on history of the Colorado Midland & Midland Terminal Railroads is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 13, at the John Wesley Ranch, 21285 Highway 67, Divide, CO 80814 (south of Divide, north of Mueller State Park entrance, west side of highway).
- The plan is to begin at 10:00 AM and go until 3:45 PM including a 45-minute catered lunch. There will be presentations by David Martinek, Mel McFarland and Art Crawford, as well as panel discussions by these presenters. It will conclude with audience Q & A. The cost per person is expected to be around \$75.
- This event is a fund-raiser for the restoration of the joint CMR/MTR depot at Divide.

Mr. Martinek can be reached at (719) 687-1516 for further information.

## Old Colorado City Plants Come Home

By Geri Pegler

The Bearded Iris planted along the north patio fence and around signposts on the west side of the History Center in July 2008 are offspring from an Old Colorado City home. Hal, the man who planted them, was born in 1910 in a now vanished part of Colorado Springs.

Hal spent many of his growing up and adult years living in Old Colorado City. The family home was built in the early 1920s, prior to his teen years.

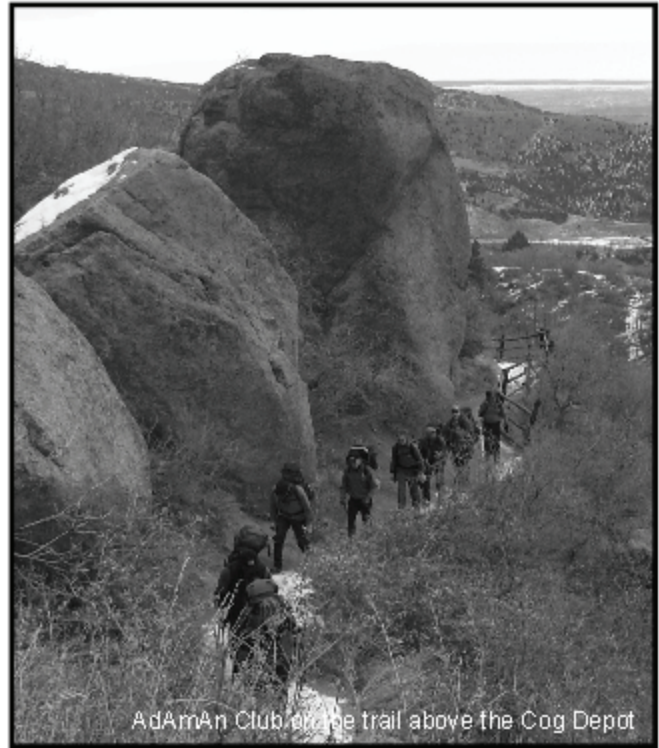
After the passing of his parents, Hal with his wife, Ruth, came back and lived his last ten years in the family home on Vermijo Avenue. Ruth who continued on in the house was also

a Colorado native. Their first two children, a daughter and a son, are OCC natives by birth and belong to OCCHS.

After his return, Hal tended the yard as long as he was able. Whether he planted the original Iris there in the mid-1970s or relocated ones his parents planted there is unclear. But, these Iris are definitely members of older, straighter strains and smaller well-formed blossoms. There are purple ones and pale yellow ones that look like patches of sunlight when planted in tight groups.

Hal's daughter, Geri, rescued them from the drought of the early 2000s by replanting them to her yard where they multiplied. Geri donated the Iris, and Hal's son, Art, and son-in-law, Don, donated their relocation work as a tribute to their Father and Grandparents in whose yard these plants grew.

How fitting they should be planted in OCCHS' museum yard!



AdAmAn Club on the trail above the Cog Depot

## *Welcoming the first year of our second 150*



At Barr Camp

Passing timberline

## PLANNING AN EXHIBIT

The following comments are an overview of what Barbara Barbaro considered when planning the new exhibit along the ramp wall at our Museum. Additional new exhibits were on display in early December: AdAmAn Club photos and favorite holiday gifts for children - Antique Dolls, Trains, Toys, Games, and a Bicycle!

### **Which collections did the photos come from?**

There are about 23 photos on display. The photos came from the following collections: Ira Current, Marvelyn Muskwinski, Rae Cross, Eleanor Dunn, the Stockbridge family, and the OCCHS photograph collection.

### **The photos on display are copies. Why not use the originals?**

All of the photos are copies of the originals. I used copies for the following reasons: 1) the originals were various sizes and shapes. Some were as small as a three inch square. I needed larger photos to adequately cover and be easily viewed on the large wall; 2) the quality of the originals varied. Some were faded, and some had marks, folds, and other blemishes on them. By making copies of them, Don Kallaus was able to clean them up; 3) using the originals was not feasible, in that the majority of the photos had to be enlarged, and all of them were finished on foam board to make them suitable for hanging on the wall; and 4) most importantly, I didn't want to damage or mar the originals in any way; they have all been returned to their designated archival files for historic preservation.

### **What were the most challenging issues in preparing the display?**

The most challenging issue in preparing the display was dealing with the varied conditions of the photos. Don Kallaus, of Don Kallaus Photography, handled that end. As an example, I chose a small, sepia toned photograph of several beautifully dressed ladies from the early 1900s. The photograph was so faded that it was nearly impossible to perceive all of the details. Don used a very high resolution scanner to capture the image, then with an editing software, emboldened the weak, faded portions of the photo, and rescued the image.

### **How did you come up with the color red for the background?**

With such a large wall to work with, I felt we needed something besides a beige background for the photos. Not long after I began formulating my ideas for the display, Eric Swab from the Dept. of Forestry set up the Fremont Experimental Forestry Project exhibit on a smaller wall opposite the ramp wall. He selected a reddish color called Raspberry Truffle for the wall. After we all got over the shock you might say, of the color, it started to grow on all of us. I began to think it was the perfect color for the ramp wall. Not only the photos, but the signage accompanying the photos, looked crisp and clear, and stood out so nicely. So that's what we used.

### **What was the criteria for the photos you selected for the display?**

After viewing so many of the photos within our archival collections over the past few years, I got the idea of organizing some of them into a collage for a wall display. The one wall that all of us in the Collections Dept. felt needed a new look was the large ramp wall. The few items on the wall (a Mormon Trail display and a couple of maps) had run their course. The wall desperately needed a new breath of life on it. My thought was to select photos that represented Colorado City during its time (1859-1917) and/or ones that represented the local area at that time. The topics I chose were civic leaders, businesses, town buildings, relaxation, worship, travel, and education. What completes the display is a write-up of a brief history of Colorado City, which ties in nicely with the photo representations.

These photos show the vibrant, human side of the town back in the days of the old West, and offer more than just a written history of life back then.

### **Is this a temporary display?**

Right now, I'd say this is a somewhat permanent display. I might change out the photos from time to time (I keep coming across more photos as time goes on), but I believe the ramp wall is perfect for showcasing Colorado City history - both written and visual. I have to say that I've received many positive and complimentary comments about the display so far. Let's see how it goes a few months from now.



## From the President's Desk-

I am writing this letter immediately after a long but productive, OCCHS Board meeting with ALL Board members attending. With so many cuts in programs and belt-tightening across Colorado Springs, you can be proud of the efforts of our Board to carefully put together the 2010 Budget. This plan focuses on expanding our progress in collecting oral history, digitalization of our artifacts and photographs, upgrading the Exhibits and Research Library, promoting the Bookstore, maintaining our building, and providing historical programs and events for our membership and the public. The Board will be realigning various responsibilities as we promote increased volunteer opportunities for our members, pursue fundraising, and actively represent OCCHS within the community. With no paid staff, the level of "professionalism" is very strong within OCCHS. We hope that you will step forward letting someone know of your willingness and interest in volunteering...including for short periods.

Art Crawford, Dave Hughes, Phil McDonald, and Sharon Swint have been speakers at various community clubs and organizations. Martha Lee, David Hughes III, Don Kallaus, and Jerry Travers are implementing newer computer programs and digitalization applications. Kathy McBride has been finding and organizing some of the "treasures" in the Research Library. Barbara Barbaro is training volunteers to help with collections and exhibits. Dave Murray asks for help finding more historical map information. The April Victorian Tea fundraiser co-chairmen are Sharon Swint and Susie Schorsch. Bev Disch thanks the many faithful volunteers in the Bookstore. Judy Willey and Janice deChadenedes oversee landscaping and maintenance projects. Don Ellis and Joanne Karlson are looking for members to share their historical research and write lead articles for our newsletter. Jo Cervone asks for helpers

with the June 19th Arts&Crafts event in Bancroft Park. And the list continues!

If you missed the Friday, January 8th, program on the "Rebirth of Colorado City" presented by Dave Hughes, go online to our website and access his concise description of events in 1975 through 1985 as the Westside neighborhood revitalized and became a historic district, including the very beginnings of OCCHS. There are many historical details that many members may not know.

And to aid in this forward progress, when you are doing your 2009 taxes and reviewing your finances for the coming year(s), please consider an extra donation to the OCCHS endowment fund or monies for a specific project (e.g. exhibits, acquisitions) or a piece of equipment (e.g. projector for PowerPoint presentations). For additional information, contact Bev Disch, Joanne Karlson or John Jackson. The Endowment Fund is especially helpful because as it grows, we leave the principal intact, can use the interest as needed (or roll it back as principal), and thus eventually have enough funding to hire some part-time staff. Something to think about....

*—Joanne Karlson*

## Treasurer's Report as of January 15, 2010

OCCHS Bank Account	\$ 9,929.41
Book Store Bank Account	\$ 4,651.50
Memorial Hospital Bond	\$ 51,001.50
Cal. Regents Bond	\$ 25,271.00
Fixed Endowment Saving Acct.	\$ 14,416.00
<b>Total Fixed Endowment Funds</b>	<b>\$90,688.50</b>
Earned Income Savings Account	\$ 10,897.11
Shirley Bond Endowed Fund	\$ 5,325.00
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<b>\$121,491.52</b>

The above report presented to and approved by the OCCHS Board of Directors, 1/18/2010.

*Johnnie E. Jackson, Treasurer*

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## WINTER 2010 OCCHS CALENDAR

*new programs new topics bring your friends come early for coffee*

### FEBRUARY

Friday, February 12 11 AM Program: "Colorado Midland: Dining across the Line". A new illustrated program featuring the railway's dining cars, presented by member, Mel McFarland. And, look at the museum's Midland exhibit.

Saturday, February 20 10 AM Workshop: "How to Get the Most out of the OCCHS Website", led by Dave Hughes. For members as well as the general public.  
Reservations not required.

### MARCH

Friday, March 12 11 AM Program: "Bicycles of Yesteryear", presented by John Crandall, owner of Old Town Bikes, and several of his friends. Don't miss the museum's antique bicycle exhibit.

Thursday, March 18 7 P.M. Workshop: "How to Get the Most out of the OCCHS Website", led by Dave Hughes. For members as well as the general public.  
Reservations not required.

*Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat., 11 - 4 Free Admission.*